



IN THE MATTER OF
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473

and

An Application by Centra Gas British Columbia Inc.
for Approval to Decrease Pioneer and ACR-1 Customer Rates

BEFORE: P. Ostergaard, Chair)
P.G. Bradley, Commissioner)
R.D. Deane, Commissioner) January 17, 2002
K.L. Hall, Commissioner)
N.F. Nicholls, Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On December 20, 2001, Centra Gas British Columbia Inc. ("Centra Gas") applied to the Commission for approval to decrease rates to its Pioneer Small General Service ("SGS"), Large General Service ("LGS") and Apartment Customer Rate ("ACR-1") customers, effective February 1, 2002, pursuant to the Special Direction (Order in Council 1510, 1995), and the terms of the Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act; and
- B. Under the Special Direction, effective in 2002, the current Pioneer General Service and ACR-1 rates are set at the lower of either the average competitive price of fuel oil with a zero percent discount or the applicable New Customer rate; and
- C. As a result of lower competitive fuel oil prices in its service area, the oil-based natural gas rates to Pioneer SGS customers are proposed to decrease by 5.84 to 7.33 percent and for LGS customers are proposed to decrease between 8.47 to 9.27 percent, effective February 1, 2002. As a result of a decrease in the competitive heating oil rates for the retail market pricing tariff, rates for the ACR-1 customers are proposed to decrease between 3.92 to 7.24 percent in the Capital Regional District and for ACR-1 customers consuming less than 6,000 GJs annually by 5.28 to 6.50 percent in the Other Communities, effective February 1, 2002; and
- D. The Commission has reviewed Centra Gas' application and finds that the decreases to the Pioneer SGS, LGS and ACR-1 rates should be approved.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders the following for Centra Gas:

1. A decrease in rates to Pioneer SGS-1 customers by 5.84 percent and for SGS-2 customers by 7.33 percent is approved, effective February 1, 2002.
2. Decreases in rates to Pioneer LGS customers of between 8.47 to 9.27 percent is approved, effective February 1, 2002.
3. Decreases in rates to ACR-1 customers in the Capital Regional District of between 3.92 to 7.24 percent, and for ACR-1 customers in Other Communities consuming less than 6,000 GJ annually of between 5.28 to 6.50 percent are approved, effective February 1, 2002.
4. Centra Gas is to advise all affected customers of the decreases in natural gas rates with an appropriate bill message.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 23rd day of January 2002.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Peter Ostergaard
Chair